

FCC Docket 05-235

Gentlemen,

After much thought, I request that the consideration being given to eliminating the requirement for 5 WPM Morse Code be limited to General Class License privileges only. The 5 WPM proficiency requirement should be maintained for the Extra Class License and the present CW mode spectrum assignments should continue.

CW has long been a fundamental part of amateur radio and the knowledge and ability to utilize CW truly establishes a complete background of radio communication. As one of those few that credit our lives to the ability to communicate by CW when other rescue communication methods failed, has no doubt, left me with a strongly biased respect for the benefits of being able to communicate with CW.

CW also continues to provide an important communication mode for amateur radio communication. One has only to tune the CW portions of the amateur radio spectrum sections to see that it still is a very active mode. It also provides ability to communicate with weak signals and with foreign amateurs with limited equipment and language capability.

On the other hand, eliminating the CW requirement for the HF bands will permit expanded use of the lower frequency phone bands. This will provide more efficient emergency and net communications.

I have been a licensed amateur radio operator since 1951 with an Amateur Extra Class license since 1988. I also have a Commercial Radio Telephone License. I have been active in most of the amateur radio activities and have been especially active with Marine radio nets.

William E. Whitney Jr.
WO7O
Oct 26, 2005